SEP 1 9 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously amended)   A port for connecting to a switching fabric, comprising:

a plurality of signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset;

a first bus having a first bus section connected to the first resource subset and a second bus section connected to the second resource subset;

a second bus connected to the second bus section;

a fault mode control operably coupled to the first bus and the second bus for selectively configuring the port as at least one of a first interface, a second interface and a third interface,

said first interface incorporating said first resource subset,

said first interface not incorporating said second resource subset,

said second interface incorporating said first resource subset and said second resource subset,

said third interface incorporating said second resource subset, and

said third interface not incorporating said first resource subset.

2. (previously amended)   The port of claim 1, for co-operating with a core, and further comprising a switching circuit, and wherein said switching circuit is controlled by the core and capable of coupling either said first, second, or third interface to said core.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 1, where the switching fabric comprises a first fabric and a second fabric.

5. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first fabric is a primary fabric.

2

Appl. No. 10/615,142
Reply to Office action of July 20, 2007

6. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second fabric is a replacement fabric for the replacement of the primary fabric.

7. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a cold standby fabric.

8. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a hot standby fabric.

9. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 1, wherein the port is compliant with a standard.

10. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 9, wherein the standard is RapidIO.

11. (previously amended)   A port as claimed in claim 9, wherein the standard is Hpyertransport™.

12. (previously presented)   A network comprising:
        a plurality of endpoints, each having the port of claim 1 and connected to a first external bus associated with the first resource subset and a second external bus associated with the second resource subset;
        a plurality of network switches including:
                a primary network switch connected to the first external bus for each endpoint, and
                a replacement network switch connected to the second external bus for each endpoint for the replacement of the primary network.

13. (previously presented)   A method of configuring a port having a plurality of signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset, a first bus having a first bus section connected to the first resource subset and a second bus

3

Appl. No. 10/615,142
Reply to Office action of July 20, 2007

section connected to the second resource subset, and a second bus connected to the second bus section, the method comprising the steps of:

operating on the first bus and the second bus to selectively configure the port as at least one of a first interface, a second interface and a third interface,

said first interface incorporating said first resource subset,

said first interface not incorporating said second resource subset,

said second interface incorporating said first resource subset and said second resource subset,

said third interface incorporating said second resource subset,

said third interface not incorporating said first resource subset.

4